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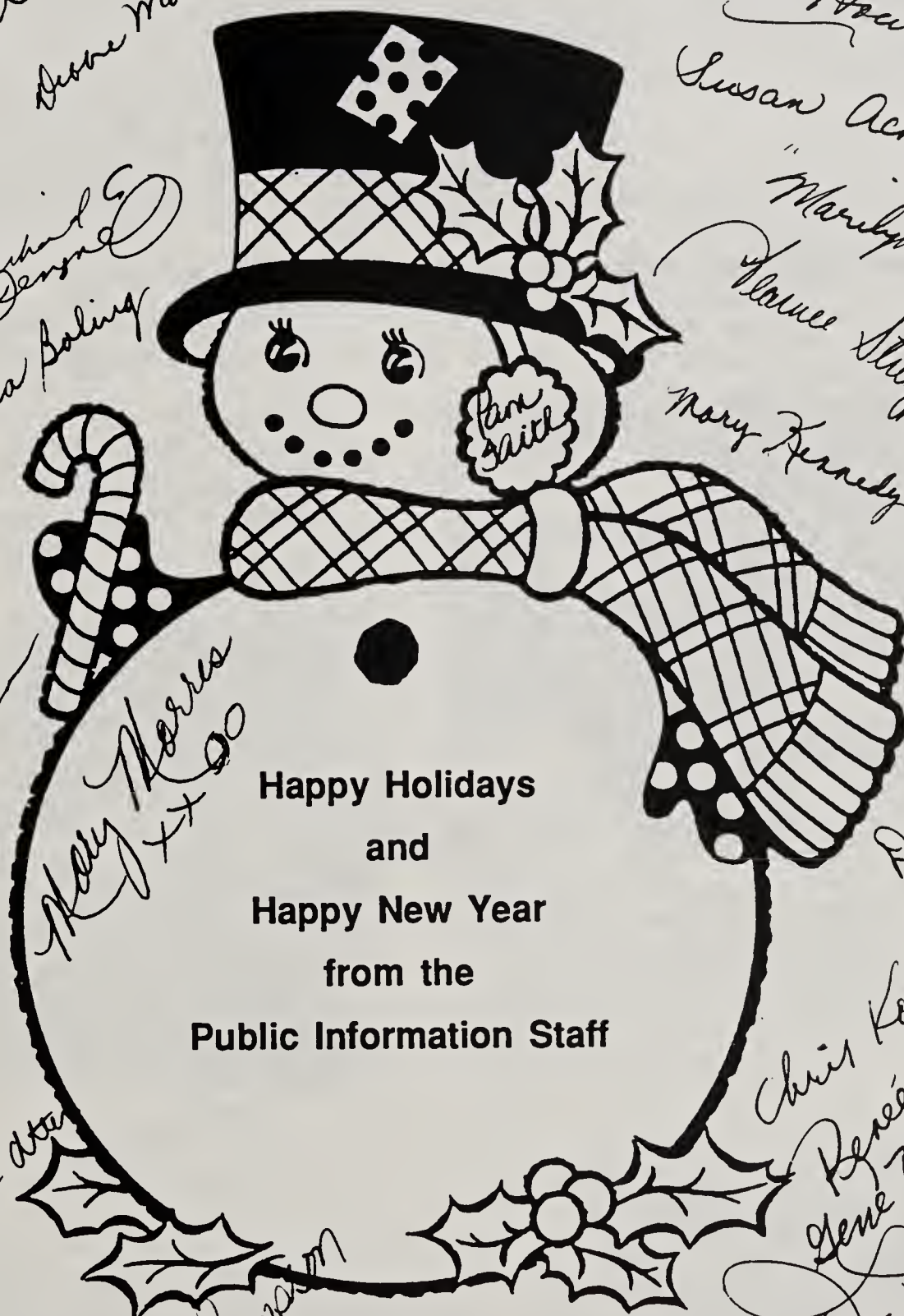
United States
Department of
Agriculture
Food and
Nutrition Service

The Friday Letter

Vol. 10 No. 24

December 15, 1989

CRDS
SERIALS BRANCH



John A. Walter

Diane Morrey

Jacqueline Howard

Susan Acker

"Marilyn Kelly"

Flance Stuyfellow

Mary Kennedy

David K. Warner

Chris Koppis
Beneé Brown
Gene Vincent

Beverly Westmoreland

Bruce Bell

Wini Scheffer

Mary Morris

Martha Newton

Michael McArthur

Phil Shankel

Genie Thompson



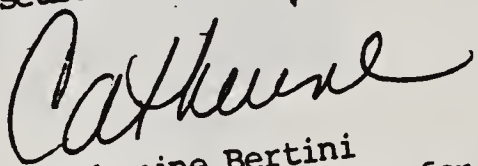
SEASON'S GREETINGS



As we approach the holiday season, a time for caring and sharing, we recognize again the vital mission of FNS to provide food to the needy and unfortunate. We realize anew and appreciate the time and talents among us, which contribute to this worthy effort. They demonstrate our concern for the citizens of this national community.

So, as we trim the tree, light candles, or celebrate in our own way this holiday season, let's be ever mindful of the needs of others.

Tom and I wish for you and your family a wonderful season filled with joy and happiness.



-Catherine Bertini
Assistant Secretary for
Food and Consumer Services

It's that time of year again. Bright lights, beautiful music, warm holiday spirit, festive gatherings with family and friends.

The joy of the season also reinforces our concern, personally and as a Nation, for the welfare of others.




We in the Food and Nutrition Service can take pride in the help our programs provide every day. These programs do make a difference in the lives of many people.

We are about to complete another year of working hard together to make the food assistance programs more responsive and effective than ever. And there is no better time to resolve to keep our momentum going in the year to come.

I would like to extend to you and your families my very best wishes for joyous holidays and a happy, healthy new year.



-Scott Dunn
Acting Administrator



Judith Lewis Joins the Administrator's Staff

Serving as Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Judith Lewis is very enthusiastic about joining the FNS family.

"I'm very excited about being here on behalf of President Bush and Catherine Bertini. I'm looking forward to serving and carrying out this Administration's goals," Lewis said.

Lewis will be the assignment coordinator and correspondence contact for the Administrator's office. Her job includes reviewing correspondence to be signed by the Assistant Secretary,

Administrator, and Associate Administrator for adherence to established Administration policies.

Lewis' career includes serving as Confidential Assistant to an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Education and 15 years of teaching experience. The last 5-1/2 years she taught at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of Mississippi.

-Story by Lisa Yue
Office of Governmental Affairs
and Public Information

FNS Celebrates National School Lunch Week

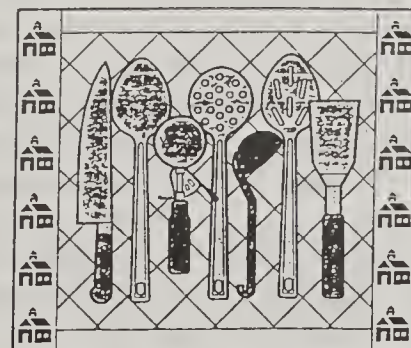
President Bush proclaimed October 8-14 as National School Lunch Week. In recognition, USDA officials visited Van Ness Elementary School in Washington, DC. This year's theme was School Lunch: What a Way to Grow!



From left to right are: Reginald Washington, DC Public Schools Food Service director; Deputy Assistant Secretary Birge Watkins; Acting Administrator Scott Dunn; Van Ness School Principal Cassandra Butler; Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini; Julius Jacobs, DC Public Schools chief of Field Operations; Maria Falcone, Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information director.



While having lunch at Van Ness Elementary School in Washington, DC, students visit with Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini.



(NSLW Continued Next Page)



A Van Ness student is elated over posing for a picture with Acting Administrator Scott Dunn.

-Photos by Pamela Faith, PI

NERO Celebrates National School Lunch Day

Tasting is believing. Just ask the more than 1500 participants and guests at NERO's celebration of National School Lunch Day.

Held in the lobby of the O'Neill Federal Building, visitors were invited to sample the commodities used in the School Lunch Program. "I think it is a sense of mislabeling; we are so used to brand names that we don't taste for quality" said Nadene Gomes, a teacher at the Dearborn Middle School in Roxbury, Massachusetts. "A blind taste-test of these commodities would prove they are just as good as the brand names." Gomes brought a group of sixth-graders to the festivities.

The bulk of the commodities was donated by the Massachusetts Distributing Agency and others were contributed by Connecticut and New Hampshire. John Raftery, director of Massachusetts Bureau of School Nutrition Services, concurs with Gomes. "The average person is surprised at the excellent quality of the food. Unfortunately, the public tends to believe the propaganda about the quality of the food and thinks it is inferior because it is surplus. And of course, that is not the case at all" he said.

"I think the positive response we are getting to the commodities, today, is a good indicator of the progress we have made in improving the quality of the school lunch" said NERO Administrator Harold McLean.



NERO Administrator Harold McLean (right) and Special Nutrition Programs Director John Magnarelli (left) sample the commodities used in the School Lunch Program. The taste testing was a part of NERO's celebration of National School Lunch Day.

-Story and photo by NERO Public Affairs Staff

In Memory of Bernie Brachfeld

Coworkers mourn the passing of Bernie Brachfeld, who was MARO's nutrition coordinator for 17 years.

Dr. B., as he was affectionately called, suffered a stroke more than a year ago. He died November 25.

During his illness, Dr. B. regularly received cards and letters of concern and was visited at the hospital by his coworkers and associates.

-Story by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

USDA Honors Disabled Employees...

Observing National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEA) Month, the Department held an annual awards program for employees nominated for the Office of Personnel Management's Presidential Award for Outstanding Federal Employees with Disabilities. On October 3, Kathie L. Herrman, MPRO, and Debra Ann Taylor, MWRO, were honored with certificates of recognition for their outstanding service to their agencies and to their communities. Their supervisors were also recognized.

Melvin Roghair, MPRO, and William Pryor, MWRO, each received a certificate of appreciation for achieving success in hiring disabled individuals and for having promoted a climate for career growth. Margaret Thiel accepted the award for Roghair.



From left to right are: Margaret Thiel, food program specialist; Debra Ann Taylor; William Pryor, supervisory food program specialist; Acting Associate Administrator George Braley; and Kathie Herrman.

Vernon Morgan represented the agency at the Department's awards ceremony. An FNS reception for the awardees and their supervisors was held later that day.

Legislation has addressed some important problems that face people

with disabilities. The Civil Rights Restoration Act, passed in March 1988, prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities by institutions that receive Federal funds. The Americans with Disabilities Act, first introduced in April 1988 and scheduled to be reintroduced, will provide comprehensive civil rights protection for people with disabilities.

To accomplish this throughout the year, the Personnel Division, supervisors, and managers are encouraged to work together to ensure that employment opportunities are available to people with disabilities.

-Story by Edna Alford, PE
Photo by Pamela Faith, PI

...and MPRO Continues the Festivities



MPRO Administrator David Alspach added his congratulations to Kathie Herrman upon her return from the Department. She was greeted by dozens of MPRO well-wishers at a mid-October reception.

-Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Regions Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

MARO

The MARO Hispanic Committee sponsored a variety of activities for Hispanic Month starting with a presentation by Carmen Garcia, a local municipal court judge.

Garcia spoke about Hispanic influence in the United States and her experiences as a municipal court judge. She stressed the importance of making all Americans aware of Hispanic contributions in order to dispel misconceptions.

Joe Yehl, program policy unit leader, and Roxanne Robinson, food program specialist, gave a lighthearted presentation about their adventures traveling throughout Latin America and Spain.

The month ended with the movie "Stand and Deliver." The movie is based on the true story of a Hispanic high school teacher who rallies Hispanic students to excel in calculus.

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

MWRO

MWRO hosted a Departmentwide Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) "job fair" symposium coordinated by Department HEP Director Vionette Tidwell.



MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods (left), Office of Personnel Director William Riley, and Office of Advocacy and Enterprise Acting Director Naomi Churchill explained how the Department ensures that Hispanics have an equal opportunity to compete in all aspects of Federal employment.

Other events to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Week were a film, "Folklorico," which looked at music and dance of traditional Mexico and the Southwest; a presentation by a Chicago investment firm, Smith-Barney Inc., on "Hispanics in Chicago"; and the annual Chicago Federal Executive Board Hispanic Scholarship Luncheon.

-Story and photo by
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

SERO

National Hispanic Heritage Month was recently celebrated by SERO employees. Proudly garbed from left to right are Nina Bratianu, Steve McGlade, Holly Vittitow, Sara Denson, Marta Kealey, Doris Coover, and Carmen Vilafane. The



(Hispanic Continued Next Page)

MPRO Holds RCCI Workshops

MPRO Special Nutrition Programs' staffers took their show on the road to Missouri for the region's two regional office-administered programs (ROAP) for residential child-care institutions (RCCI).

The workshops were organized around two manuals on food service and administration developed for ROAP states. As RCCI representatives flipped through their manuals to the correct section, Ron Shaffer and Joe Fisher of MPRO--assisted by staff from the St. Louis and Independence field offices at two of the three workshops--covered offer-versus-serve options, production records, point-of-service meal counts, breakfast program changes, and AccuClaim regulatory changes.

The Missouri team covered three cities (Columbia, St. Louis, and Independence) in 3 days for the benefit of 79 RCCI staff representing 43 institutions in Missouri. Written comments from the participants indicated a high degree of satisfaction. MPRO staff feels the workshops help ease the transition to new regulations and requirements for the varied public or private nonprofit facilities participating in school lunch and breakfast programs--including minor residents of orphanages, halfway houses, Florence Crittendon homes, and even separate juvenile-offender wings at correctional institutions.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

"Good Taste" at MARO

MARO Administrator Chris Martin ladled out soup during Pennsylvania's recent observance of World Food Day at the State Capitol Rotunda.

The ham and bean soup and cheese sandwiches were served soup-kitchen style at an awards ceremony honoring emergency food volunteers. Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel and

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff presented the volunteers from throughout the state with certificates of appreciation.

Several students also received \$100 savings bonds for winning a hunger awareness poster contest.



MARO Administrator Chris Martin (right) meets with Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Mark Singel (left) and State Agriculture Secretary Boyd Wolff before they dressed in aprons at the State Capitol Rotunda where they served a meal in a demonstration soup kitchen.

-Story by Marian Wig
Photo by MARO
Public Affairs Staff

(Hispanic Continued)

"fiesta," which included Hispanic music, dance, and delicacies, was a reflection of pride in Hispanic contributions to culture in the United States.

McGlade, the handsome Mexican "charro," escorted beautiful "señoritas" representing various Hispanic countries in a parade of costumes that added a special touch to the celebration.

-Story by Cathleen Jensen
SERO Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Doris Coover
Food Stamp Program

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14-and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Food Prog Spec	(A)	GS-0120	5/7	01/31/90	90-B	FNS
o Secretary (Typing)	(G)	GS-0318	5	01/08/90	90-14	PDD
o Economist	(A)	GS-0110	9/12	01/08/90	90-H-19	HNIS
o Secretary (Typing)	(G)	GS-0318	7	01/08/90	90-20	FDD
o Secretary (Typing)	(G)	GS-0318	5/6	01/08/90	90-21	IRMD
o Comp. Sys. Analyst	(G)	GS-0334	12	01/08/90	90-22	IRMD
o Math. Statistician	(A)	GS-1529	9/12	01/29/90	90-H-23	HNIS
o Secretary (Typing)	(A)	GS-0318	6	01/10/90	90-24	PAD
o Secretary (Typing)	(A)	GS-0318	6	01/10/90	90-25	PAD

Office Location

FDD - Food Distribution Division
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 PAD - Program Accountability Division
 NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services Div.
 PDD - Program Development Division
 IRMD - Information Resources Management Div.
 FNS - Food and Nutrition Service and HQ

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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